

TROPICAL DEPRESSION 02C

During late August, two tropical disturbances developed in the central North Pacific Ocean, east of the International Dateline, and tracked westward into the JTWC area of responsibility. The first of these disturbances crossed the dateline on 27 August and later became Typhoon Ellen (10W). As this disturbance moved westward toward Enewetak Atoll (WMO 91250), a second disturbance began to develop southwest of Johnston Island (WMO 91275). At 301530Z, the Naval Western Oceanography Center, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, issued a TCFA for this disturbance, which was followed by the initial warning at 310600Z from the Central Pacific Hurricane Center (CPHC), Honolulu, Hawaii.

During the first 24 hours in warning status, Tropical Depression 02C moved toward the northwest and the dateline. At 312345Z August, satellite fix information from the National Environmental Satellite, Data and

Information Service (NESDIS) office in Honolulu, Hawaii, indicated that Tropical Depression 02C had reached the dateline (see Figure 3-25-1). Based on this information, the CPHC issued their final warning for 010000Z September position and transferred warning responsibility to the JTWC.

After 010000Z, satellite fix positions began to oscillate east and west of the dateline. It seems likely that Tropical Depression 02C may have slowed, or moved erratically, near the dateline before resuming a westward track on 2 September. During this period, a break in the subtropical ridge was present northwest of Tropical Depression 02C. Tropical Depression 02C was forecast to respond to this break by moving slowly northwestward. However, that response was never realized, and once the subtropical ridge strengthened, Tropical Depression 02C moved west-southwestward and eventually dissipated over open water.

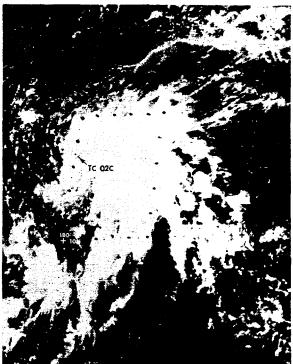


Figure 3-25-1. Tropical Pepression 02C at its peak intensity. This imagery provided information to both the CPHC and JTWC that Tropical Pepression 02C had reached the dateline. However, it was 24 hours later that satellite fix data indicated a significant movement westward from the dateline (312345Z August GOES-West visual imagery, courtesy of the National Environmental Satellite, Data and Information Service, Honolulu, Hawaii).